

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
AF-10 IO-13 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08
FPC-01 INT-05 OMB-01 OES-07 STR-05 TRSE-00
ACDA-12 FEA-01 /131 W
-----047167 012131Z /56

R 011237Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9397
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD POUCH
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
SECDEF WASHDC/ISA/DSAA
USCINCEUR
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 6193

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, XF, KU
SUBJECT: KUWAITI VIEW OF POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT
OF REGIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION IN THE PERSIAN GULF

REF: KUWAIT 6005 (NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR TOOK RADM S.H. PACKER, NEW COMIDEASTFOR,
TO CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY RASHID
AL-RASHID ON OCT. 30. ADMIRAL PACKER USED THIS OCCASION
TO EXPLAIN THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS UNDER WHICH MIDEASTFOR
OPERATED, STRESSING THAT ITS PERSONNEL WERE NO LONGER
HOME-PORTED IN BAHRAIN, BUT RATHER IN THE U.S.
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2. FOLLOWING AMBASSADOR'S EARLIER SUGGESTION, HE
SOLICITED RASHID AL-RASHID'S VIEWS ON ANY PROGRESS BEING
MADE TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION
IN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA. THE UNDERSECRETARY PREFACED
HIS RESPONSE BY NOTING THAT NEITHER STATEMENTS MADE IN
WASHINGTON ON GULF SECURITY NOR "RADICAL REACTIONS" TO

SUCH STATEMENTS SERVE THE "PURPOSES OF PEACE." AMBASSADOR INTERPRETED HIS REFERENCE TO "STATEMENTS MADE IN WASHINGTON" AS APPLYING TO THE RECENTLY REPORTED REMARKS OF SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AND TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY, AS HE HAD RECENTLY WITH THE AMIR (REFTEL), TO EXPLAIN THE FRAMEWORK IN WHICH SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS WERE MADE, COMMENTING THAT THE PRESS HAD PLACED HIS OBSERVATIONS IN INCORRECT CONTEXT. AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT THE U.S. SUPPORTS THE EFFORTS OF GULF COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR OWN SECURITY.

3. RETURNING TO RADM PACKER'S INQUIRY ABOUT THE PROGRESS TOWARD REGIONAL SECURITY IN THE GULF, RASHID AL-RASHID NOTED THAT HE HIMSELF WAS INTERESTED AND ACTIVE IN PROMOTING REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE AREA. HE EXPLAINED KUWAIT'S PHILOSOPHY WITH RESPECT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH COOPERATION, OBSERVING THAT REGIONAL POLICIES COULD NOT BE "IMPOSED FROM THE TOP", RATHER SUPPORT FOR SUCH POLICIES HAD TO "COME UP FROM THE PEOPLE." THEREFORE, THE GOK WAS PROMOTING REGIONAL COOPERATION IN SUCH FIELDS AS EDUCATION, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. THE UNDER-SECRETARY FELT THAT THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCH COOPERATION HAD TO BE BUILT ON THESE MATTERS WHICH HAVE A MORE DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE INTEREST TO THE PEOPLE IN THE AREA. IT WAS HOPED THAT THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES WOULD COME TO THE REALIZATION THAT JOINT COOPERATION WAS ALSO NEEDED
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TO ASSURE THEIR SECURITY. HOWEVER, HE SAW A REGIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM FOR THE GULF AREA AS STILL A LONG WAY OFF, ALTHOUGH HE BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD EVENTUALLY DEVELOP WHEN THE PEOPLE UNDERSTOOD THE NEED FOR IT.

4. COMMENT: RASHID AL-RASHID'S VIEWS ON THE POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM IN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA CONFIRM WHAT THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN REGULARLY REPORTING, NAMELY THAT IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO EXPECT THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH A SYSTEM AMONG COUNTRIES WHO STILL HAVE TO WORK OUT THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF COOPERATION WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS. THIS TREND IS DEVELOPING, BUT THE AMBASSADOR AGREES WITH RASHID AL-RASHID THAT IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE THE NEED FOR SUCH A REGIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM IS APPRECIATED.
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 01-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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